Gilead's Research Scholars Programs in Oncology Solid Tumors

2023-24 Cycle: Focused on breast, bladder, and lung cancer research only

October 2023, IHQ-UNB-4757

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Research Scholars Program Overview

The Research Scholars Program supports innovative research from emerging investigators around the world to incorporate new perspectives in our pursuit of scientific understanding and progress. We believe that new voices and research topics are needed to advance scientific knowledge in areas of unmet medical need and create a healthier world.

Since 2008, Gilead's Research Scholars Program has invested more than $31 million USD into meaningful basic, translational and clinical scientific research conducted by more than 240 scholars to help transform scientific understanding, address knowledge gaps and drive medical breakthroughs.

Each of our Research Scholars Programs is overseen by a scientific review committee comprised of distinguished experts in their respective fields who are independent from Gilead to ensure equal, objective evaluation of all applicants and their applications. This enables us to maintain the program's overall integrity and competitive standards, and to ensure awards support the next generation of breakthrough scientific discovery.

Each award is funded up to $180,000* USD over two years, paid as annual instalments of $90,000 USD per year* directly to the scholars' institution. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report and approval by the chair of the scientific review committee.

Diversity Fosters Innovation

The Research Scholars Program is actively working towards reducing potential barriers to entry and success for applicants from population groups who are typically underrepresented in research. We are committed to supporting researchers and research projects addressing unmet patient needs and health inequities in order to build a more inclusive research landscape.

Award selections are made without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, genetic information or characteristic, gender identity and expression.

* Award value is subject to country regulations

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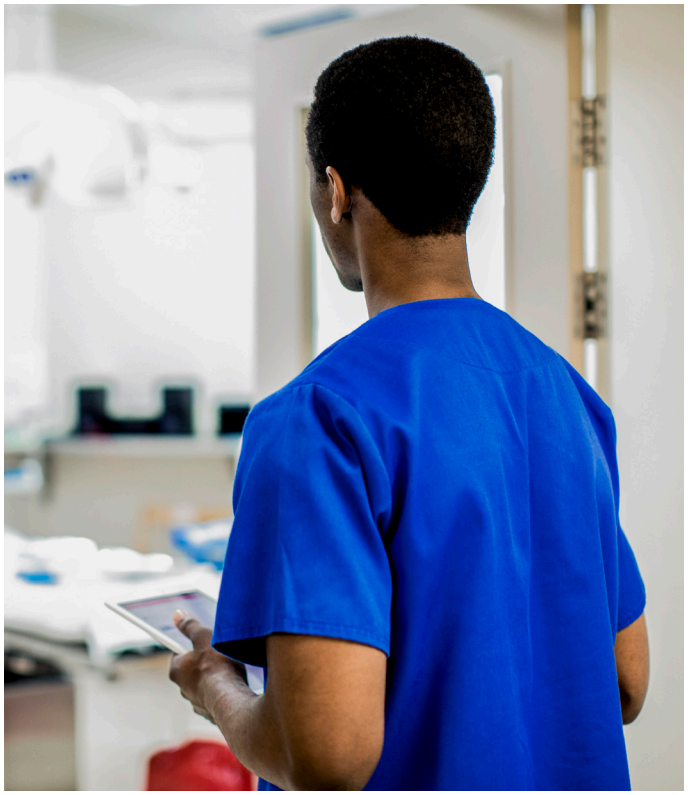
Solid Tumors Program Overview

The program is designed to support any pre-clinical and clinical research **focused on breast, bladder, or lung cancer** that addresses an unmet medical need in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors, in Australia, Canada, or Europe.



This may include, but is not limited to, research focused on:

- Disparities and inequities in cancer care
- Agnostic approaches to solid tumors
- Combinational drug strategies/approaches to treatment
- Resistance mechanism identification/novel approaches to addressing resistance mechanisms
- Transformative, therapeutic modalities/approaches to treatment
- Patient-specific factors that are predictors of toxicity
- Genomic polymorphisms and impact treatment response
- Novel targets and/or biomarkers/imaging techniques
- Novel diagnostic, prevention and treatment strategies
- Research to improve Quality of Life (QoL) Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO's) e.g., adverse events, addressing unmet needs for patients
- Any other pre-clinical or clinical research that addresses an unmet medical need or gap in scientific knowledge

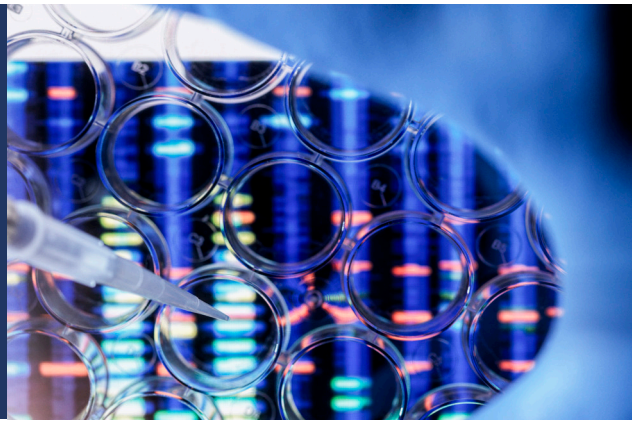
The Solid Tumors program provides a minimum of 3 awards

Program Timeline

Application Deadline: 15 March 2024, 11:59 PM, Central European Time

Applicant Notification: 12 July 2024

> **The Gilead Research Scholars program allowed me to fund critical research at an early stage of my independent career, which I could not have done without the award.**
>
> – Dr. Daniel Hodson



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Eligibility Criteria

The Research Scholars Program in Solid Tumors is open to emerging investigators from all countries within Europe, Australia and Canada. **For the 2023-24 cycle, the program will focus on Breast, Bladder, and Lung cancer.**

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold an MD, or PhD, (or equivalent degree) at time of award. MD qualifications would have to have been obtained within the last 10 years and PhD qualifications would have to have been obtained within the last 5 years
- Early to Mid-career scientists with a strong research track record who hold a position as a recognised research institution in one of the eligible countries at the time of application (see below for list of countries) and whose tenure of that position encompasses the projected period of the award from the Gilead scholarship program
- Have a strong career interest in Oncology Solid Tumors
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors
- Be able to devote at least 30% of their professional time to research for the next two years (versus administrative, patient care, or teaching responsibilities)
- Be able to complete the proposed research within the 2-year award period, providing evidence (manuscript, presentation, or abstracts) resulting from the research

Exceptions to the above can apply, for example, having taken time out for parental leave or family bereavement

The Research Scholars Program is actively working towards reducing potential barriers to entry and success for applicants from population groups who are typically underrepresented in research. Award selections are made without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, genetic information or characteristic, gender identity and expression.

Citizenship

The Research Scholars Program in Solid Tumors is open to

- Europe (all countries)
- Australia
- Canada

An applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the country/region in which they propose to conduct the research, or subject to the qualifications noted below hold a temporary study or non-immigrant visa. This visa must be valid and must allow the applicant to undertake the research over the two-year award period from the country/region in which they propose to conduct the research. This non-immigrant visa/work permit must be valid for the two-year award period or applicant must be able to establish that he or she is eligible for an extension, renewal or other status that will enable the applicant to perform the research in the applicable jurisdiction for the entirety of the two-year award period.

"The Gilead Research Scholars Program award provided additional support and funding to really make my research more innovative."

– Dr. Kristine Mace Erlandson

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Application Information

Applications must be completed online via the program portal and submitted electronically with the required supplementary materials.

Applications are reviewed and selected by an independent Scientific Review Committee comprised of internationally recognised experts in basic, translational, and clinical research in the field of Oncology `Solid Tumors.

Gilead Sciences is not involved in the review and/or selection of awardees in order to maintain the scientific integrity and independence of the program.

Proposals utilising Gilead and Kite product(s) are not eligible for funding through the Research Scholars Program. Proposals involving Gilead product(s) should be submitted for review under the Investigator-Sponsored Research Grant Program through the ISR online portal.

All applications are reviewed by two Scientific Review Committee members based on the criteria listed below.

The highest scoring applications will then be discussed at length by all Scientific Review Committee members at a review meeting. The awardees and runners up are then selected by consensus of the committee.

All the applications that make it through to this stage are deemed highly competitive and will receive feedback outlining their research proposal strengths and areas for development.

The committee will consider the following criteria when evaluating applications:

1. **Evaluation of the applicant**
   - Potential for a career in Oncology related research
   - Academic record (presentations, publications etc)
   - Prior research experience and/or publications focused on Oncology Solid Tumors
2. **Evaluation of the Mentor Support and Mentoring Plan**

A mentor is someone who makes a commitment to your research career. They should be responsible for guiding not only your research proposal but also your application for funding and help you with your professional development and advancement.

As mentorship can come from different people for different aspects of your research career, we do allow co-mentorship although ask that one of your mentors be located within your institution

- Letter of support from mentor(s) which includes: mentor's track record of productivity, funding, and success with prior trainees; detailed description of the mentoring plan, including resources allocated to the proposed research project, provision of protected time, and available laboratory facilities (if relevant)
- The mentor(s) is an independent investigator
- The mentor(s) has the experience to direct the proposed research training, as evidenced by the letter of support
- The mentoring training plan and mentor-mentee relationship is sufficient to facilitate the applicant's progress towards their research career goals
- Letter of support from the department chair or division chief to document the institution is willing, and has the ability, to commit the resources necessary for the applicant to complete the proposed research, including sufficient protected time

It's important that your mentor reviews your research proposal and associated documentation before submission to ensure it is at the highest standard and submitted error free.

3. **Evaluation of the proposal**
   - Innovation and Significance: The research proposal is new and original and addresses an important question/issue related to Solid Tumors. The proposed study will have an effect on concepts, methods, and/or technologies related to Solid Tumors research.
   - Approach: The conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses are adequately developed, well-integrated, well-reasoned, feasible (as determined by preliminary data or the expertise available), and appropriate to the aims of the project. The applicant acknowledges potential problem areas and considers alternative tactics.
   - Feasibility: The project, as described in the submitted proposal and budget, can be accomplished within the timeframe of the award.

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Budget Guidelines

Each selected awardee is funded up to $180,000 USD* (inclusive of any indirect costs), to be paid in two annual instalments of up to $90,000 USD per year* directly to the researcher's institution. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report by each junior researcher and approval by the Chair of the Scientific Review Committee.

An itemised budget must be submitted with the proposal, consistent with the following guidelines:

Indirect Costs

To maximize the research benefit of the award, the program encourages that every effort be made to minimize the utilisation of the award to cover indirect costs. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the award value, and are included as part of the budget, not as an addition to the value of the award (subject to local variances to be approved by Gilead Sciences).

Indirect costs are defined as overhead costs paid directly to the institution, for example maintenance of labs/space and departmental/admin costs.

Salaries

The applicant may allocate up to $75,000 USD per year in salary and fringe benefits support for the applicant and/or a technician.

Salaries and fringe benefits for mentors, post-doctoral fellows, or students may not be included.

Supplies

Supplies such as disposables, chemicals, reagent kits, animals, etc, may be included.

Purchase of durable equipment over $2,500 USD is not permitted within the budgets, however, the budget can support rental/lease of this durable equipment. Rental of equipment is preferred where possible

- Durable equipment would be lab tools and devices that are designed for use over a long period of time (e.g. many years), being resistant to wear and generally would be items that can be rented
- Durable equipment excludes lab supplies and similar single-use or disposable products
- Equipment purchases with a single item value of greater than $2,500 USD may not be included

Travel

Up to $1,500 USD per year for applicant's travel to a scientific meeting for presentation of data may be included.

If the research project includes investigations on human subjects, a copy of the submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) must be submitted prior to award. Award will be contingent upon IRB approval.

If the research project involves laboratory animals, researcher must certify that he/she will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to care and use of animals in research prior to award.

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Scientific Review Committee

Applications will be reviewed by the committee, comprised of internationally recognised experts in basic and clinical research in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors:

Chair

Evandro de Azambuja, MD, PhD
Head of Medical Support Team - ATPT
Institut Jules Bordet
Brussels, Belgium

Committee

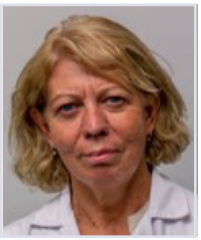
Sheeba Irshad, MD, PhD Medical Oncologist
Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Trust
Innovation hub
Cancer Centre
London, UK

Nadia Harbeck, MD, PhD
Director Breast Cancer
LMU Univeristy Hospital
Munich, Germany

Jean-Yves Pierga, MD, PhD
Head of Department
Medical Oncology
Institut Curie
Paris, France

Lucia Del Mastro, MD
Director of Breast Unit
IRCCS Ospedale
Policlinico San Martino
Genova, Italy

Debbie Robbrecht, MD, PhD
Urogenital Oncology and Phase I Research Lead
Erasmus University Medical Center
Rotterdam, Netherlands



Enriqueta Felip, MD, PhD
Section in Chief, Medical Oncology Department
Head Thoracic Oncology Unit
Vall D'Hebron University Hospital
Barcelona, Spain

Miquel A Seguí-Palmer, MD, PhD
Head, Medical Oncology Service
Hospital Universitari Parc Tauli
Barcelona, Spain

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Contact Information

For more information about the Gilead's Sold Tumor program and to receive updates about future program cycles, visit:

https://researchscholars.gilead.com/en/intl_solid_tumors_portal

Please subscribe to the portal in order to be informed about future program cycle timelines.

For general inquiries about the Research Scholars Program, please email:

Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in Oncology Solid Tumors

Attn: RSP Coordinator // Intl Solid Tumors

Email: gileadsciencesrsp@bcdme.com

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